

CALENDAR

**MASSACHUSETTS PESTICIDE EXAM SCHEDULE**

UMASS Eastern Extension Center—240 Beaver St., Waltham

**FEBRUARY 22.** Deadline for submitting application is **FEBRUARY 15.**

**MARCH 1.** Deadline for submitting application is **FEBRUARY 22.**

**QUESTIONS CALL—617-626-1785.**

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**U.S. FARMERS GIVE A LOT MORE THAN THEY GET**

By Larry Waterfield

Thank goodness for the U.S. food and farming system, including a vibrant free-enterprise fruit and vegetable industry. Too bad nobody knows or cares much about it.

As the farm bill is debated, the newspapers are full of stories about lobbyists and lawmakers arguing about a few cents more per bushel for program crops, wheat, corn and soybeans. U.S. farmers are portrayed as welfare kings.

Rush Limbaugh, the conservative commentator calls farmers “the biggest welfare recipients.” The liberal *Washington Post* says about the same thing. So on the left and right there is general agreement: Farmers are busily scooping up the public largesse while laughing all the way to the bank. No one seems to know that 60% of American farmers get no subsidies. That includes the producers of the nation’s fruits and vegetables.

Of course, every once in a while some hardy soul will counter the welfare argument by saying, “The American people enjoy the cheapest and safest food supply in the world.”

Ho-hum. What a yawner. Nobody wants to hear that. Maybe seven lean years or pestilence or a famine would get people’s attention, by no one wishes that. And no one wants to hear about the wonders of the food system.

Yet there are some powerful arguments to be made about the value and benefits of the U.S. food and agricultural system. Too bad no one is making those arguments, including U.S. senators.

Take jobs. The food and farming system, including growing, packing, handling, trucking, retailing and foodservice, provides 15 million jobs. That’s about 13% of all jobs. The only other category of the economy with more jobs is manufacturing.

Take hunger and the poor. The U.S. spends \$40 billion per year to give food to the poor through free school lunches, food stamps and food for women, infants and children, the elderly and folks on Indian reservations. In addition, private charities working through churches and communities feed millions more with the help of the produce industry, retailers, restaurants and others. In all, these public and private feeding programs reach more than 50 million people. All this is possible because of the vast and low-cost production of U.S. agriculture.

There is a growing demand for U.S. food assistance around the world through Food for Peace and other programs. The U.S. feeds millions abroad.

Former U.S. Senators Bob Dole and George McGovern have proposed a worldwide school lunch program to reach millions of poor children. That program is now being implemented, with the help of U.S. money and U.S. farm commodities.

Take the environment. There is no doubt that farmers are stewards of land and water. Farm conservation programs have helped restore wildlife habitat to the point where in some places there is more wildlife than there was a hundred years ago. Many urban areas are finding they need to preserve farmland and open spaces in order to save wildlife and clean water.

Take food security. Nations go to war over food. It is said that the Japanese, with 127 million people, produce enough food for only 65 million. Britain and many other prosperous nations do not produce enough food to meet all their needs. Cuba, despite its warm tropical climate and abundant land, is now trying to buy U.S. food.

For the U.S., food security is a given. We think little about it. Of course, we are huge importers of food, and that is expanding. More nations want to sell food to the U.S. And while we want to buy and sell food around the world, only a fool would sacrifice food sufficiency and security.

Imagine some dim future when the U.S. is dependent on foreign suppliers for, say, half its food. If the U.S. is willing to fight for oil supplies, how much more would it be willing to go to war to get food.

Of course, we've said nothing about what farms and the food system do for small towns, for rural areas, for pleasant vistas away from the maddening crowds. We've said nothing about the values of the family farm, however that is defined.

The fact is it is an insult—and a lie—to say that American agriculture relies on welfare. Welfare is given to those who cannot fend for themselves. American agriculture not only fends for itself, it fends for millions of others. It is an economic engine, a provider of great abundance, a boon to the nation and to the world.

Money spent on American agriculture is an investment, a payback, an incentive, an economic adjustment to keep the machine oiled and running. None should dare call it welfare.

(Article from "THE PACKER" Dec. 31, 2001)

#### APPLE SHIPMENT TRACKING

Source: USDA

Amounts are shown in units of 10,000 pounds

| Season Begins | 01/20/02-<br>01/26/02 | 01/13/02-<br>01/19/02 | 01/21/01-<br>01/27/01 | Total this season<br>01/26/02 | Total last season<br>01/27/01 |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| SEPTEMBER     | 11,623                | 10,721                | 12,126                | 184,262                       | 222,823                       |

#### MID-WEEK F.O.B. PRICES AT MASSACHUSETTS COUNTRY SHIPPING POINT

Prices and grades received by telephone, February 12, 2002

##### Controlled Atmosphere

| VARIETY              | GRADE                              | SIZE             | PRICE        |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| <b>McINTOSH</b>      | Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy | 80s              | <b>19.00</b> |
|                      |                                    | 96s              | <b>18.50</b> |
|                      | Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy       | 12-3s 2-1/2" min | <b>12.50</b> |
|                      | Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy       | 8-5s 2-1/2" min  | <b>14.00</b> |
| <b>CORTLAND</b>      | Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy | 72s & 80s        | <b>18.00</b> |
|                      | Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy       | 12-3s 2-1/2" min | <b>12.50</b> |
|                      | Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy       | 8-5s 2-1/2" min  | <b>14.00</b> |
| <b>EMPIRE</b>        | Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy | 80s              | <b>18.00</b> |
|                      |                                    | 96s              | <b>17.50</b> |
|                      | Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy       | 12-3s 2-1/2" min | <b>11.50</b> |
|                      | Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy       | 8-5s 2-1/2" min  | <b>13.00</b> |
| <b>RED DELICIOUS</b> | Cartons Tray Pack U.S. Extra Fancy | 80s & 88s        | <b>13.50</b> |
|                      | Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy       | 12-3s 2-1/2" min | <b>11.00</b> |
|                      | Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy       | 8-5s 2-1/2" min  | <b>13.00</b> |

#### FEDERAL MARKET NEWS SERVICE, EVERETT, MASS.

FEBRUARY 11, 2002

#### NEW ENGLAND

|                 |   |                  |                    |
|-----------------|---|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>McINTOSH</b> | Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy<br>(Controlled atmosphere) | 80s              | <b>23.00-24.00</b> |
|                 |   | 100s             | <b>20.00</b>       |
|                 | Cartons Cell Pack U.S. No. 1                                  | 80s              | <b>12.00</b>       |
|                 |   | 100s, 120s, 140s | <b>9.00- 9.50</b>  |
|                 | Cartons Film Bags U.S. No. 1                                  | 12-3s 2-3/8" min | <b>9.50</b>        |

|                     |   |                          |   |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| CORTLAND            | Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy<br>(Controlled atmosphere)     | 80s                      | 18.00   |
|                     |   | 96s                      | 17.00   |
|                     | Cartons Cell Pack U.S. No. 1                                      | 80s & 96s                | 12.00   |
| SHIPPED IN          |   |                          |   |
| McINTOSH            | NY Hudson Valley Ctns CelPk U.S.ExFcy<br>(Controlled atmosphere)  | 80s & 100s               | 19.00   |
|                     | Lake Champlain Cartons CelPk                                      | 80s                      | 23.00-24.00   |
|                     | Combination U.S. ExFcy-U.S. Fcy                                   | 100s                     | 20.00   |
|                     | NY Hudson Valley Ctns CelPk U.S. No. 1<br>(Controlled atmosphere) | 120s & 140s              | 9.50  |
|                     | Lake Champlain Ctns FlmBg U.S. Fcy                                | 12-3s 2-1/2" up          | 11.00   |
| EMPIRE              | NY Hudson Valley Ctns CelPk U.S. Fcy                              | 80s                      | 18.00   |
|                     |   | 100s                     | 16.00-17.00   |
|                     | PA Cartons Tray Pack U.S. ExFcy                                   | 88s                      | 17.00   |
|                     | NY Hudson Valley Ctns FlmBg U.S. ExFcy                            | 12-3s 2-1/2" min         | 12.00   |
| RED<br>DELICIOUS    | WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy<br>(Controlled Atmosphere)           | 64s                      | 17.00-19.00 fine appear. 20.00-22.00                    |
|                     |   | 72s & 80s                | 17.00-19.00 fine appear. 20.00-21.00                    |
|                     |   | 88s                      | 17.00-19.00 fine appear. 19.50-21.00                    |
|                     |   | 100s                     | 16.00-20.00 mostly 17.00-18.00 fine appear. 20.00-21.00 |
|                     |   | 125s                     | 16.00-19.00 mostly 16.00-18.00                          |
|                     | WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy                                      | 72s & 80s                | 21.00   |
|                     |   | 88s                      | 16.00-18.00 one brand 21.00                             |
|                     |   | 100s                     | 16.00   |
|                     |   | 125s                     | 15.00-16.00   |
|                     | NY Hudson Valley Ctns FlmBgs U.S. ExFcy                           | 12-3s 2-3/8" min         | 12.00   |
| GOLDEN<br>DELICIOUS | WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy<br>(Controlled Atmosphere)           | 72s                      | 25.00-27.00 mostly 26.00                                |
|                     |   | 80s & 88s                | 23.00-25.00 mostly 24.00                                |
|                     |   | 100s                     | 21.00-24.00 mostly 22.00-23.00                          |
|                     |   | 113s                     | 18.00-19.00   |
|                     |   | 125s                     | 18.00   |
|                     | WA Cartons Cell Pack WAExFcy<br>(Controlled Atmosphere)           | 80s                      | 26.00-27.00   |
|                     | 96s   | 24.00-24.50              |   |
| ROYAL GALA          | WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy<br>(Controlled Atmosphere)           | 64s                      | One brand 26.00   |
|                     |   | 72s                      | 28.00   |
|                     |   | 80s                      | 26.00-28.00   |
|                     |   | 88s                      | 26.00-28.00 mostly 26.00                                |
| RED ROME            | NY Hudson Valley Ctn TryPk U.S. ExFcy                             | 72s, 80s, 88s            | 15.00   |
|                     | WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy                                      | 80s                      | 18.00-20.00   |
| ROME                | NY Hudson Valley Ctns FlmBgs U.S. ExFcy                           | 12-3s 2-1/2" min         | 12.00   |
| FUJI                | PA Cartons Tray Pack U.S. ExFcy                                   | 80s & 88s                | 24.00   |
|                     | WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy                                      | 56s                      | 25.00   |
|                     |   | 64s                      | 24.00-25.00   |
|                     |   | 72s                      | 24.00   |
|                     |   | 80s                      | 23.00-23.50   |
|                     |   | 88s                      | 22.00-23.50   |
|                     | 100s  | 22.00-23.00 mostly 22.00 |   |
| BRAEBURN            | WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy                                      | 80s                      | 23.00-23.50   |
|                     |   | 88s                      | 22.00-24.00   |

|                              |  |                    |                                 |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------------------|
|                              |  |                    |                                 |
| <b>CAMEO</b>                 | WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy<br><b>(Controlled Atmosphere)</b> | 80s                | <b>24.50</b>                    |
|                              |  |                    |                                 |
| <b>PINK LADY</b>             | WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy<br><b>(Controlled Atmosphere)</b> | 88s                | <b>23.00</b>                    |
|                              |  | 113s & 125s        | <b>15.00</b>                    |
|                              |  | 138s               | <b>12.00</b>                    |
| <b>GRANNY SMITH</b>          | WA Cartons Film Bags WAExFcy<br><b>(Controlled Atmosphere)</b> | 72s                | <b>28.00</b>                    |
|                              |  | 80s                | <b>27.00-28.00</b>              |
|                              |  | 88s                | <b>23.50</b>                    |
|                              |  | 100s               | <b>19.00</b>                    |
|                              | WA Cartons Film Bags WAExFcy<br><b>(Controlled Atmosphere)</b> | 12-3s 2-1/2" min   | <b>16.50-18.00 mostly 18.00</b> |
| <b>CIDER</b>                 | New England Preserved Cartons                                  | 4-1 gallon bottles | <b>9.00- 9.40 mostly 9.00</b>   |
|                              |  | 9 ½-gallon bottles | <b>10.00 best 11.25</b>         |
| <b>Howard Vinton, Editor</b> |  |                    |                                 |